

Wednesday, April 15, 2015 - World Heritage Commission Meeting

Attending:

Ruth Taylor

Bailey Silechnik

Paul McGreevy

Evan Smith

Bill Leeman

Karen Mellor

C. Morgan Grefe

Naomi Neville

Pieter Roos

Jo Yellis

Ken Yellis

Ron Onorato

Alyssa Lozupone

Meeting called to order.

Jonathan is engaged in a new project, but will not be stepping down as Co-Chair. Ruth will carry on alone and we will revisit the need for another co-chair down the line, if needed.

Housekeeping

Having difficulty setting up meeting times. Full commission will meet quarterly moving forward. Hand poll revealed that there is a mild

preference for morning meetings; Monday is the hardest day for commissioners to meet. Poll for future meetings through year will be set up via email.

Steering Committee Report

National Parks Services wants back a short summary of how any new application would look different than the one from 2007. Ruth has committed us to sending something by the end of this month (April.) Technical committee has been coordinating this. Once National Parks receives this, Outreach Committee Can go to work.

Technical Committee Report

Close to being done with text and application, within days of finishing. Text has gone through several rounds of edits. Story has not changed much, but the way in which we are telling it has changed. What's changed: Providence is now included. There is a new configuration of properties. Comparative analysis is robust. Yellis is feeling like we are in really good shape and are close to getting there.

Concerns were raised about competition with Charlestown, SC. Ruth said that she is not worried about our intellectual chances, but more with social capital or political. The idea of a joint application was discussed.

Outreach Committee Report

The overall process goes into a waiting game once the application is in, but the Outreach Committee should be strategizing about how to influence internal debate. Entire commission is actually responsible for outreach whether being on the committee or not. People should be thinking about who they know and can reach out to to assist this project. Three targets that we're looking at: those who own or run properties in Newport/Providence; National Parks Service itself; influencers of National Park Service. McGreevy said he does plan to ask for a co-chair with outreach department.

Governor's appointment to commission: Governor has point person on all boards and commission. Meredith Cullen is working in Governor's office checking in on all boards and commissions.

Website

John Flanders has been contracted to submit a proposal to build this site. The estimated cost is \$1,100.00. Content management could be done by Newport Historical Society, as stated by Ruth Taylor. The city of Newport has given us \$2,500 to work with so money is not a great concern at this stage. McGreevy moves to contract John Flanders, Onorato seconds. Grefe posed the problem of developing a website only to hear back right away that it is a no. Ruth said that we could use this narrative beyond this endeavor. The website could be converted towards another RI history awareness effort. McGreevy said that five years from now, it could become a long term

educational tool. Naomi stated that the City of Newport sees this as an investment. If this endeavor were to be unsuccessful, the city would not be concerned with getting this money back. It was not a conditional gift.

A discussion was held about the timing of and approval process for getting information up on the website once launched. This will need to be established. McGreevy amended his motion to have another vote before launch and commission voted unanimously to contract John to design website.

New business

Naomi asked if we would be in need of graphics and physical presentation as she has someone in mind. Ruth told her to give contact info to Ken.

Evan asked if the Blackstone valley, which has done work with Parks Service, should be contacted. Onorato recommended talking to Ted Sanderson. Ruth asked if there were any sense that Blackstone people would not be okay with this and Morgan said that they should not have a problem with this. Morgan thinks that this is a great time to bring Parks Services into the conversation. Ken Yellis said that Rhode Island has the opportunity to be a model for others in New England.

Meeting adjourned.